



American Alligator

By Marc Garcia



Alligator Size & description

- The adult female is 8.2 feet
- The Adult Male is 11.2 feet.
- Males and females have an armored body with a muscular flat tail.
- Also alligators have a long snout with upward facing nostrils at the end.



Facts about alligators



- Female alligators usually remain in a small area.
- The males occupy areas larger than 2 square miles.
- Young Alligators remain in the area where they are hatched, and they are protected by their mother. After two and three years, they leave their mother and find food.

Distribution and habitat

- The American Alligator is found from North Carolina to the Rio Grande in Texas.
- Alligators are usually found in freshwater, in slow moving rivers.



Alligators & Crocodiles

- Alligators' teeth are not visible when its mouth is closed
- Crocodiles teeth are visible when their mouths are closed.



Zoo Diets

- At the zoos, the American alligator is fed rats and for an occasion they eat chickens and rabbits.



Diet in the wild

- Alligators are meat eaters.
They have very strong jaws that can crack a turtle shell.
- They eat mammals and fish.
They use their sharp teeth to seize and hold prey.
- Small prey is swallowed whole.
If the prey is large, crocodilians shake it apart into smaller, manageable pieces.



Reproduction

- Males and females mate, then after mating the female gator builds a nest out of vegetation.
- Females lays 35 to 50 eggs!!
- At the end of August, young alligators begin to make a high pitched sound inside the egg, this means the baby is getting ready to hatch outside the egg.



Life Span and status

- Alligators can live up to 50 years in the wild, they are endangered by people.
- They were almost extinct, people used their skin for purses or shoes.
- Strict Conservation and research has taken the alligator off the endangered species list.



Famous Alligators and Crocodiles



- There are cartoon alligators like, Wally Gator.
- There also alligators in video games like Mega Man, Gator Panic and Frogger 2: Swampy's Revenge.
- There are also Crocodiles in games and cartoons like, Sonic The Hedgehog, Croc for the play station and Super Mario Bros. Super Show!
- There are also alligators and crocodiles in movies like, Kermit Swamp Years, Crocodile Dundee and other movies.

The End

